

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are canceled and new claims 44-59 are added, of which claims 44, 50 and 56 are independent.

Claims 1-19 and 22-43 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being upatentable over Satake et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,099,742. The rejection is overcome by the cancelation and replacement of the rejected claims with new claims 44-59.

Embodiments of the present invention relate to an estimation system for wiring harness processing, an estimation method for wiring harness processing, and a corresponding computer program. Wiring harnesses (or, more simply, "harnesses") comprise bundles of electrical wires and cables, often with suitable electrical connectors provided at the ends of the respective wires and cables. The wire and cables are bound together to form harnesses for use in, for example, automobiles and electronic appliances, to facilitate internal electrical wiring and cabling of such products and devices. Because harnesses can be a significant factor in overall product design and cost, the costs attributable to the harness must be considered and addressed when designing the wiring harness itself.

The costs attributable to the harness can be roughly divided into material costs and processing costs. Material costs include the cost of the component materials, such as wires and connectors. Processing costs includes the labor cost of each type of processing work performed during manufacture of the harness. Calculating these costs quickly and accurately is not easy, even for those experienced with and skilled in performing such calculations.

Embodiments of the present invention include registering or storing in a database the quantities and unit component prices of the component materials used in connection with harnesses (e.g., historic data based on harnesses designed in the past), retrieving the historic data from the database appropriate to the design for a new wiring harness, and making appropriate corrections. For example, to the extent that the unit prices paid for basic component materials may not vary

significantly, there may be no need to reenter unit price information and thereby simplify and reduce the burden of calculating costs for a new wiring harness. Further, the time required to calculate component material costs can be reduced and mistakes (e.g., data input errors) can be minimized or prevented.

Embodiments of the present invention also enable selection of an appropriate manufacturing instrument (e.g., machine such as a suitable crimp-connecting machine, wire stripping machine, etc.), identification of required processing, and calculation of the processing costs. Thus, embodiments of the invention allow even those not very knowledgeable in the field of harness-related work procedures to calculate accurate processing and production costs. That is, embodiments of the present invention are directed not only to simplifying calculations of the cost of harnesses, but also to assisting users in quickly and accurately calculating the material, processing and overall production costs of harnesses. The foregoing features of the various embodiments of the present invention as defined by the new claims presented herein are not disclosed or suggested by Satake. Accordingly, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under 35 USC 103(a) and allowance of new claims 44-59 are solicited.

In view of the above, each of the claims in this application is in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and

authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no.

116692004600.

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